

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2013, AT THE
STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY, PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:05 a.m. by UAV Chairman Bob Madden, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt-at-Arms Bob Hysko.

Presentation: “Supporting Veterans and Veterans Legislation,” Al Melvin, CAPT, USN, Retired and State Senator, 26th District (Oro Valley/Catalina (Tucson North)), email: amelvin@azleg.gov
Senator Melvin stated his goal for Arizona is Arizona to be military-friendly and veteran-friendly, that Arizona’s best social program is Jobs. He mentioned that trucking companies are hiring truck drivers, and that the Swift and Knight transportation companies have their own schools, a value of \$70-75,000; interested veterans should inquire at those two companies. In January 2014 Senator Melvin is sponsoring legislation (an incentive to employ veterans). He was also the author of the legislation regarding the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal, see Legislation information at the end of these Minutes.

Presentation: “Project H3 VETS,” – Brad Bridwell, Cantwell-Anderson, Inc./Cloudbreak Communities, email: bbridwell@cantwell-anderson.com

Brad Bridwell discussed veterans who are homeless over a year, the average is 8 years, motto: “Leave No Veterans Behind.” Brad introduced Joan Servis, Executive Director of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness; Shane Groen, Coordinator; and Sean Price, AZDVS.

Presentation: “Greetings and Remarks,” Brad Hazell, Veterans Liaison for Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, Arizona – District 1, email: Brad.Hazell@mail.house.gov

Mr. Hazell is a Marine Corps veteran (Iraq), now serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. District 1 is rural Arizona, Safford, and the Four Corners area. Congresswoman Kirkpatrick is a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Service officers are helpful in expediting claims submitted to the VA.

Presentation: “Arizona Veterans Legal Clinic,” Norman Fulton, DAV

Veterans Legal Clinics for veterans and their spouses are scheduled for: Saturday, October 19th in Glendale, 9 am, DAV Chapter 20, 8447 N. 61st Ave; and March 2014 in Tucson. For more information, to schedule an appointment, and receive forms needed for the clinic, please contact Norman Fulton, Legal Clinic Director, DAV, at: 303.249.5827 or email: nsfultoniii@gmail.com

ROLL CALL: Roll call taken, quorum certified.

JUNE 1, 2013 MINUTES: Motion to approve by Secretary Carol Culbertson, seconded by Dave Willis. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer John Burden. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit, made by Jim Katzenberger and seconded by Dave Willis. Motion carried.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS - Chaplain Bohach appreciates receiving notifications of sickness and distress situations which come to the attention of our UAV representatives. Chaplain Bohach’s contact information: 623.846.2212, email: rbohachbo@cox.net

REPORTS:

1. Congressional Offices – James Pitts, Congressman Ed Pastor’s Staff, District 7, was introduced.

2. VA Medical Center – Sharon Helman, Director reported that new veteran patients are being seen in 25 days instead of one year. Over 558 staff were hired in the last 12 months, including 142 new positions. 53% of those hired are veterans hired under Schedule A hiring authority. VAMC is now hiring to fill 300 positions. Construction is happening at the Southeast Clinic in Gilbert. Patients at the Buckeye Clinic have been reassigned to the Surprise Clinic. 81,000 are being served.

The “PC3” (Patient Centers Community Care) are good for rural areas (TriWest, Healthnet).

The Compensation/Pension backlog is 809 claims. There are 5,000 “over one year” claims. “Priority 8” means: no service-connected disability, and, the veteran’s income exceeds the financial criteria.

3. Arizona Dept of Veterans’ Services: Sean Price, AZDVS Staff

Arizona women veterans in Phoenix and Tucson attended a Knowledge and Health Fair on August 17th.

4. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Madden reported that the Second Floor wing of the State Veterans Home Phoenix (where we meet) is running out of space to hold all the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame large plaques. He reported that the Military Museum at Papago has space for them.

Annual UAV Dues: Chairman Madden reported that the Big 3 pay \$100 annual dues (American Legion, DAV, and VFW) and the remaining UAV member organizations pay \$25 annual dues. He asked the membership to consider raising the dues for the 2014 year and thereafter. One suggestion heard was to raise the \$25 dues to \$50. This topic will be discussed further at a later date, Chairman Madden just wants to start us thinking about raising the dues.

Rick Romley suggested that the UAV put together a Strategic Plan and Budget to match the Strategic Plan.

5. UAV Legislative Committee - Legislative Chair Lionel Sanchez announced he is retiring from the Legislative Committee due to health reasons, he recommended Corey Harris as his replacement. He reminded everyone that the reply date for the 2014 Copper Shield Legislator of the Year award is: September 30, 2013.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. December 7th Commemoration Ceremony – Judy Hatch, Chair - There will be a B-17 flyover. 8 am: Wreath presenters line up. Raffle tickets are now being sold at \$20 each for a chance to win 1 of 8 seats on the B-17 -- after December 7th.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Requests to Join UAV – Chairman Madden reported that the UAV Board of Directors is

recommending to the body – two new members:

**Air Force Association (State level)
City of Phoenix Military Veterans Commission**

Air Force Association: One objection to the Air Force Association becoming a UAV member was made, the representative stated he disagreed with the way the AFA state organization ran things. Motion was made by Al Kerstetter and seconded by Sgt-at-Arms Hysko to accept these two organizations as new members of the UAV. Motion carried.

City of Phoenix Military Veterans Commission: Motion made by Art Sloane and seconded by Al Kerstetter. Motion carried.

2. Announcement: Jeanne Botwright, Bob Delker, and Art Sloane, with Art as Committee Chair, have stepped up to serve on the UAV Nominations Committee - Chairman Madden
The Nominations Committee will present a Slate of Candidates at the October 5th UAV Meeting.

3. Nominations to the AVHOF Copper Shield Award (Legislator of the Year Award) - The postmark deadline is Monday, September 30th. Criteria, Guidelines, and where to mail the Nomination is described on the Nomination Form. Point of contact: Corey Harris at email: armyharris@gmail.com

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Starting September 16, Arizona's driver's licenses will be able to show: "Veteran."**
- 2. October 19th - Chandler Expo for veterans in Chandler, AZ. Point of contact: Art Sloane at: artgbeard@aol.com**
- 3. A Veterans Lunch on the Capitol Lawn is being planned for February 2014 (source: Mark Field, email: sunmags@aol.com)**
- 4. Arizona StandDown will be February 14, 15, and 16th, Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Veterans/Volunteers are needed to work as ushers, etc. at the State Fair this Fall to help reduce the cost of renting the Coliseum in February. Veterans/Volunteers, please register at the Arizona StandDown web site: www.arizonastanddown.org/maricopa**
- 5. 50/50 Raffle Winner: Beth Nehring, \$41; Treasury, \$41.**
- 6. Next Meeting: Saturday, November 2, State Veteran Home Phoenix, Liberty Hall on the second floor, 10 am to Noon**

Closing prayer given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/CAROL CULBERTSON

Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
Email: claudehc@yahoo.com
Office/fax: 602.943.7834

ACTION LOG

Discussion of raising the UAV Dues beginning in January 2014 will be discussed at a later date.

Nominations Committee will present a Slate of Candidates at the October 5th UAV Meeting

Brief Biography of State Senator Al Melvin

Home City: Tucson

Occupation: Trade and Transportation Consultant

Member Since: 2009

Senator Al Melvin, Republican for District 26, is committed to serving the people of Southern Arizona. As an educator, businessman, and veteran, he is committed to bringing vision, integrity and leadership to the Arizona State Senate.

Originally from Helena, Montana, Al is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY; the Naval War College, Newport, RI; and the American Graduate School of International Management, Thunderbird Campus in Glendale, Arizona.

In 1999, after 30 years of reserve military service, Al retired as a Captain, U.S.N.R. One of his last duty assignments was Squadron Commander of MPS 2 at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. He had a parallel 35 year career, including 12 years in the Far East, in international trade and ocean transportation, working for three major steamship corporations. Al's U.S.N.R. and merchant marine careers included nine years at sea. He holds an unlimited tonnage Masters license issued by the USCG. Al was an Adjunct Lecturer for the University of Arizona for six years. He also taught at the University of Phoenix and Western International University, specializing in courses in international trade, transportation, logistics and economics. Al also owns a consulting firm, American Quality International Consulting.

Full biography at: [Al Melvin - Member Page](#)

www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=26&Legislature... - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

Bio Information. Committee ... Senator **Al Melvin**, Republican for District 26, is committed to serving the people of Southern Arizona. ... **Al Melvin** is fighting for:.